

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 05163 231103Z
ACTION ARA-14

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-07 OES-07 FEAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2380
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 5163

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OAS ENRG SHUM
SUBJECT: SILVEIRA COMMENTS ON OAS ISSUES AND RELATIONS WITH US

1. SUMMARY. IN THREE INTERVIEWS GRANTED IN GRENADA AND UPON HIS RETURN TO BRAZIL FROM THE OAS MEETING, FONMIN SILVEIRA HAS SPOKEN OUT EXTENSIVELY AND POSITIVELY ON RELATIONS WITH THE US AND SECRETARY VANCE. HE ALSO SOUGHT TO CLARIFY AN EARLIER STATEMENT ABOUT PRESSURES AGAINST THE FRG/GOB NUCLEAR ACCORD AND THE GOB POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. HIS COMMENTS ARE DETAILED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. IN GRENADA INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN BRAZILIAN PRESS JUNE 17, SILVEIRA SAID USG HAD TAKEN A MORE POSITIVE VIEW IN ITS DIALOG WITH BRAZIL. SILVEIRA ADDED CHANGE WAS INDICATED BY THE MANNER IN WHICH US ADDRESSED SUBJECTS, BY THE LANGUAGE IT USED, AND BY UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRASIL 05163 231103Z

ITS WISH NOT TO BE AMBIGUOUS. FONMIN STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN CONCERNED BY THE DIFFICULTIES IN BRAZILIAN RELATIONS WITH THE US, BUT "I THINK THAT THINGS ARE IMPROVED... AFTER PARIS AND THIS MEETING HERE IN GRENADA, I AM MUCH LESS CONCERNED." SILVEIRA CHARACTERIZED HIS CONTACT WITH THE SECRETARY AS "GREAT". HE ADDED THAT SECRETARY HAD CREATED ATMOSPHERE OF UNDERSTANDING AND COMPLIMENTED THE SECRETARY FOR HIS

FORMULATION OF CONVERSATIONS IN A NON-AMBIGUOUS MANNER,
"VERY CLEAR AND WITH SINCERITY."

3. SILVEIRA SAID THAT THE SUBJECTS HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH SECRETARY VANCE INCLUDED MUTUAL COOPERATION AND A SEARCH FOR MECHANISMS THAT WOULD AVOID PROBLEMS THAT NORMALLY EXIST BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. HE ADDED THAT THE TWO HAD AGREED TO ACTIVATE SUBGROUPS UNDER THE MOU. IN SOME DETAIL SILVEIRA NOTED THAT MRS. CARTER HAD SPOKEN WITH PRECISION ABOUT THE MOU AND SECRETARY VANCE HAD NOT ONLY VERIFIED THE CONTINUANCE OF THE MOU IN PARIS BUT HAD ALSO INDICATED TO JOURNALISTS AT THE OAS MEETING THAT HE WAS COMING TO BRAZIL IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MOU. SILVEIRA SAID THAT HE HAD HAD A "VERY FLID" EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE SECRETARY AND NOTED THAT THE SAME HAD OCCURRED BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND GEISEL. SILVEIRA ALSO CONFIRMED THAT SECRETARY VANCE WOULD VISIT BRASILIA IN OCTOBER.

4. SILVEIRA CALLED "SCANDALOUS" THE FOCUS OF AMERICAN TELEVISION ON THE PROBLEM OF THE TWO AMERICAN PRIESTS APPREHENDED IN RECIFE. HE DEFENDED THE PRESS' RIGHT TO TAKE PICTURES AND MRS. CARTER'S RIGHT TO SEE WHON SHE WANTED IN RECIFE, BUT CALLED MEDIA COVERAGE OF HER MEETING WITH THE TWO PRIESTS "UNBALANCED." HE INDICATED THAT US TELEVISION HAD AN ENORMOUS AUDIENCE AND THAT BRAZIL HAD BEEN MISREPRESENTED BY THE COVERAGE.
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PAGE 03 BRASIL 05163 231103Z

5. IN ANOTHER GRENADA INTERVIEW WITH ESTADO COLUMNIST CARLOS CONDE, SILVEIRA SPOKE ABOUT THE "ENOURMOUS UNDERSTANDING" OF THE BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR POSITION IN EUROPE CALLING IT A POSITIVE EVOLUTION. STATEMENT WAS MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF HIS DENIAL THAT PRESSURES AGAINST THE NUCLEAR ACCORD WITH THE FRG HAD CEASED. SILVEIRA NOTED THAT THE BRAZILIAN NEWSPAPER HAD HEADLINED THAT PRESSURES HAD ENDED. MINISTER CLAIMED HE WAS MISQUOTED AND THAT IN FACT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT THE EVOLUTION OF PRESSURES WHICH WAS DIFFERENT FROM SAYING THE PRESSURES HAD ENDED.

6. SILVEIRA SAID THAT US PROPOSAL ABOUT AN "INVENTORY" OF NUKCLEAR FUEL CYCLE HAD BEEN A TOPIC IN HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETAR
Y
IN GRENADA. SILVEIRA SAID SECRETARY WANTED BRAZIL TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROJECT. SILVEIRA CLAIMED HE HAD RESPONDED THAT GOB HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT FROM THE USG THROUGH THE EMBASSY, BUT THAT THERE WAS NO REQUEST FOR BRAZIL TO PARTICIPATE. SILVEIRA SAID THE GOB HAD NOT YET STUDIED THE US PROPOSAL, AND HE CLAIMED HE TOLD SECRETARY THAT BRAZIL WOULD EXAMINE THE CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THE PROPOSAL, ADDED, "WHAT WE ARE

NOT ABLE TO ACCEPT ARE PRESCRIPTIONS; WE HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DECISION PROCESS."

7. IN INTERVIEW GRANTED UPON HIS ARRIVAL BRAZIL, SILVEIRA ADDRESSED THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOUTHERN CONE COOPERATION. SILVEIRA TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT "BRAZIL DOES NOT REACT AGAINST THE THEME OF HUMAN RIGHTS. ON THE CONTRARY, THE REPORT THIS YEAR OF THE OAS INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ONLY PRAISES BRAZIL." HE ADDED, "WE NEVER HAVE REFRAINED FROM GIVING INFORMATION ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN ANY CASE. SINCE PRESIDENT GEISEL ASSUMED POWER, BRAZIL HAS GIVEN ALL INFORMATION." SILVEIRA SAID THAT BRAZIL IS INTERESTED IN THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS BUT DISAGREES WITH THE METHODS WHICH MAKE COMMISSION INVESTIGATIONS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BRASIL 05163 231103Z

"INQUISITORIAL" AND THEREFORE, WOULD NOT AGREE TO A COMMISSION VISIT TO BRAZIL. SILVEIRA ALSO DENIED THAT THERE WAS A POLITICAL BLOC BEING FORMED AMONG SOUTHERN CONE STATES CRITICIZED FOR THEIR TREATMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HE AFFIRMED THAT BRAZIL WOULD ALWAYS BE AGAINST THE FORMATION OF POLITICAL BLOCS IN LATIN AMERICA.
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